Privatisation of inter-State DTC routes

5592. SHRI O. P. KOHLI;

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1461 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1986 and state;

(a) Whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to the news item captioned "800 inter-State DTC routes to be privatised", appearing in the Pioneer of 17th April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Delhi thereto?

THE MINISTER OP STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYT-LER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No final decision in this regard hag been taken.

Declaration of road from Gopalpur to Raipur as National Highway

5593. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to declare the State road from Gopalpur to Raipur in Orissa as national highway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYT-LER): (a) No, Sir There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(Widening of national highway No. 5 between Vijayawada and Ongole

5594. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY;

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister *of* SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

la) whether there is any proposal to widen National Highway No. 5 between Vijayawada and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work is ligely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYT-LER): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to widen National Highway No. 5 from two lanes to four lanes from Chilakaluripet (KM 355.0) to Vijaya-wada (KM 434.15) at an estimated cost of Rs. 293.20 crores with lie assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan.

(c) It is too eariy to indicate the date of completion °f the project.

Inland Water Transport

5595. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether in the wake of environmental and economic considerations, the inland water transport sector has assumed importance; and